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SUBJECT: GICNT: PORTUGAL INFORMED THAT UNODC IS OBSERVER

REF: STATE 83550

On September 8 Pol-Econ officers informed Joao Fins do Lago and Maria Joao Furtado of the Portuguese MFA Office for Non-Proliferation of GICNT's decision to invite the UNODC to become an observer group. The demarche was served jointly with Russian Political officer Alexander Kushch. Fins do Lago replied that the news was expected after the meeting at The Hague in June. Fins do Lago also said he expected more frequent GICNT meetings given the positive progress from recent meetings.

For more reporting from Embassy Lisbon and information about Portugal, please see our Intelink site:

<http://www.intelink.sgov.gov/wiki/portal:portugal>  
BALLARD